



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRE MARSHAL ANNOUNCES "AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY LAW & RIDER SAFETY ACT"

BATON ROUGE- As the Fall Fair and Festival Season begins in Louisiana, State Fire Marshal V.J. Bella wishes to inform the citizens of Louisiana that the State Fire Marshal Office is continuing to enforce the Louisiana Amusement Ride Safety Law and the Rider Safety Act.

The Mechanical Safety Section, of the State Fire Marshal Office, inspects all amusement rides/ attractions in the state. Act 928 of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session, is known as the "Louisiana Carnival and Amusement Rider Safety Act" requires that the Owner/Operator of the equipment place signage in a prominent place for the public to see, informing them of their responsibility to obey all the directions and warnings posted for each ride/attraction.

All signs required by the law shall include a legend providing that "STATE LAW REQUIRES RIDERS TO OBEY ALL WARNINGS AND DIRECTIONS AND BEHAVE IN A MANNER THAT WILL NOT CAUSE OR CONTRIBUTE TO INJURING THEMSELVES OR OTHERS. RIDERS SHOULD REPORT ALL INJURIES BEFORE LEAVING THE EVENT PREMISES."

All amusement rides/attractions that operate in the state are required to have posted a Certificate of Inspection. If the amusement ride or attraction is operating without a current Certificate of Inspection, Fire Marshal Bella pointed out that the legislation provides for assessing civil penalties to not only the operator of the amusement ride or attraction, but also to the owner or lessee of the site on which the amusement ride or attraction is operating.

The public is urged to verify that the amusement ride or attraction has met the requirements of the legislation by asking the operator to see the current Certificate of Inspection. If the amusement ride or attraction does not have a current Certificate, Mr. Bella asks that his office be notified. Citizens are asked to call 1-800-256-5452 and request to speak to the Manager of the Amusement Ride/Attraction Section.

"With the help of the public in reporting any rides or attractions operating in the State that do not have current inspections, this office will be able to locate and secure the operation of those rides or attractions. This will allow the citizens and tourists in Louisiana the opportunity to enjoy the "Good Times" with the knowledge that every effort has been made to ensure a safe ride or attraction."

END